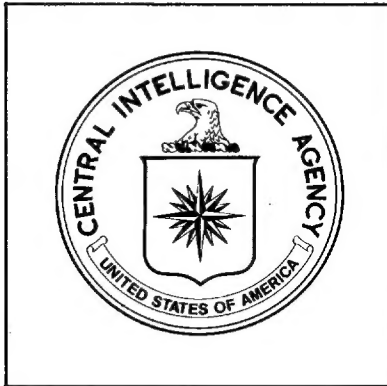


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Moscow Worker Rumored for Trade Union Post

[REDACTED]

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Soviet leaders have decided to name a factory worker with little political experience to succeed ousted Aleksandr Shelepin as head of the trade unions organization. [REDACTED] 57-year-old Aleksey Viktorov--until recently a foreman in a Moscow ball-bearing plant--will be appointed to the trade union post at the July Supreme Soviet session. He will also be given a seat on the Politburo as a candidate member.

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Viktorov gained prominence last month when he was named a secretary of the governing board of the trade union organization. His appointment was announced at the same meeting that confirmed Shelepin's ouster as the trade unions' chief. Viktorov had been a factory worker for 39 years and a member of the Communist Party since 1946. He was elected a full member of the party's Central Committee in 1971, and to the USSR Supreme Soviet last year. As such he is no ordinary worker, but by the same token he is far removed from the inner circle of the ruling elite.

The appointment of Viktorov would mark a sharp break with past practice. It would be the first time in Soviet history that a blue-collar worker was named to head the Soviet trade union organization. There are certain obvious attractions from the leadership's point of view to making such a break with the past. It would help to boost the prestige of the Soviet labor union as a genuine workers' organization at a time when the Kremlin is seeking to improve relations with Western trade unions and Social Democratic parties.

If the appointment of Viktorov does come off, the political leadership will have found a way to duck the

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more difficult decision involved in the selection of a politically prominent and thus controversial personality. The "do-as-little-as-possible" approach that has marked staffing problems for some time would thus be continued.

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Moscow Keeps Up the Pressure on the
Chinese Communist Party

The Soviet Union is maintaining pressure on other communist parties to condemn the Chinese Communist Party. Determined to limit Chinese inroads into foreign communist and radical movements, Moscow continues to use its followers to help limit Chinese successes.

An article in the issue of the Soviet journal *New Times* published at the end of May is one example of Moscow's anti-Chinese efforts. To show that communist opposition to Maoism is widespread, the article cites several foreign communists who condemn Chinese efforts to "cultivate sectarian and separatist trends" within other communist parties.

Moscow of course knows that it cannot obtain formal condemnation of Maoism from a world conference of communist parties. The article in *New Times*, in fact, criticizes the Western press for "fabrications" that Moscow is preparing to "excommunicate" Peking from the movement. The article adds, however, that if anyone is excommunicating the Chinese party, it is Mao himself and his henchmen. This is a well established Soviet tactic for attempting to demonstrate that it is the Chinese party itself which is responsible for its exclusion from the company of the right-thinking Marxists of the world.

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Belgrade Complains About
Eastern Parties' Collusion

The Yugoslavs are making a public row over Soviet efforts to coordinate--behind closed doors --the stands of orthodox parties on issues relevant to all participants in preparations for the European Communist conference.

Milika Sundic, Radio Zagreb's knowledgeable commentator, last Saturday complained that a closed "symposium of orthodox ideologues in Prague from June 10 to 12 in fact coordinated the Soviet camp's policies for the next round of conference preparatory talks. Sundic argued that the small number of participants in the symposium--only Soviet, East German, Bulgarian, and Mongolian representatives--bodes ill for other European parties harboring different viewpoints and interests.

The Prague meeting discussed the "joint struggle against bourgeois ideology and revisionism." Tito's party has bitter memories of past efforts by the Soviets and their loyalist allies to pin the revisionist label on Yugoslavia's independent form of socialism. In recent times, the orthodox parties have muted such criticism, but Belgrade's wariness of another Soviet attempt to master-mind all ideological matters has not diminished.

An editorial in Zagreb *Vjesnik* on May 12 also reflected Belgrade's dissatisfaction with Moscow's attempts to sell a binding program for European Communist parties. The newspaper strongly reasserted Yugoslav tenets on the sovereignty of each individual party and the right of each socialist country to pursue an autonomous foreign policy. *Vjesnik* pointed to North Korea as an example of a socialist state that had recently opted for an independent, nonaligned posture in world affairs. The editorial stopped just short of citing nonalignment as a useful option for the other East European Communist regimes.

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